

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended and claim 2 is canceled. No new matter is added.

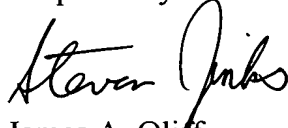
Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,922,988, has been rendered moot because the allowable features of claim 2 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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